

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine, ~~in particular for an airplane engine, the turbine~~ comprising:

a wheel mounted to rotate in a casing (14, 16) and carrying blades (10) whose tips are at a small radial distance from an inside surface of the casing, and

means for reducing clearance between the tips of the blades and the inside surface of the casing,

~~the turbine being characterized in that~~ wherein the means for reducing clearance comprise stubs (26) mounted in radially slidable manner to the tips of the blades (10) and guided in an annular groove (34) of the casing (14, 16).

2. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stubs (26) are made of a material that is lightweight and withstands wear and high temperatures.

3. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the stubs (26) are made of ceramic.

4. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding claim 1,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stubs (26) include radially outer portions (30) in the form of curved plates for extending along the inside surface of the casing.

5. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the radially outer portions (30) in the form of plates of the stubs (26) include stiffening reinforcements.

6. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each stub includes parallel circumferential ribs (32) forming wipers on its face facing towards the inside face of the casing.

7. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inside surface of the casing facing the stubs (26) includes a layer (48) of abradable material.

8. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stubs (26) are fitted onto the tips of the blades (10).

9. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine, ~~in particular~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claims claim 1 to 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stubs (26) are inserted at least in part in bathtubs (20) formed at the tips of the blades (10).

10. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stubs (26) co-operate with the walls (36) of the bathtub (20) to define cooling air flow passages which are fed by channels that open out into the bottoms of the bathtubs.

11. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that it includes~~ further comprising means (20, 34, 38) for holding the stubs (26) axially and radially on the tips of the blades (10).

12. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, for assembly purposes, the stubs (26) are held on the tips of the blades by adhesive or by a tie surrounding the blades.

13. (Currently Amended) A gas turbine according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inside surface of the casing facing the stubs (26) is cylindrical, being divergent or of constant section.

14. (New) A gas turbine according to claim 1, wherein said gas turbine is for an airplane engine.